**NMBC Small groups** – week beginning 6th Sept 2020 Study questions to choose from.

Exodus 1:1-2:10 “Israel in Egypt, dark days of oppression”

**Read 1:1-22**

*The writer emphasised certain aspects of the* ***Egyptians’ treatment of the Israelites****, & also of* ***God’s care of the Israelites****. Before reading, ask everyone to note any* ***repeated words****.*

1 Why did the king become **worried about the Israelites**? Use the text… plus your imagination!

2 How is the **Egyptians’ treatment of the Israelites** described?

3 What was the **distinctive characteristic of the midwives** which shaped their behaviour?

*We can guess that some of the Israelites found it* ***difficult to believe that God was still active in their lives*** *with all the severe suffering of their life in Egypt.*

4 Suggest **examples of God’s people** around the world today whose experience might give them **similar doubts**.

*The great ‘antibiotic’ against doubting God is the assurance of the guarantees he has made to fulfil his purpose even if the powers of hell work to prevent it.*

5 Ask someone to read **Genesis 15:1-5**. What is **the image of God’s faithfulness** here?

 Do you find **any evidence of God’s promise being fulfilled** even in the suffering of Exodus 1?

6 Ask someone to read **Genesis 46:1-4**. What is **the specific promise** here? The Israelites had **no evidence of this promise being fulfilled**! **Why would someone still go on believing it**?

*Moral issues as possible discussion points.*

7 Exodus 1:15-16 and 1:22 describe **genocide**. How would you relate contemporary **abortion**, to the extent that current law allows it, to this?

8 Exodus 1:17-19. The midwives disobeyed the king! **How would you justify such civil disobedience**?

**Read 2:1-10**

*One Egyptian, despite the national mood and official policy, was free of racial prejudice, compassionate, and prepared to go against her father’s spirit in genuine concern.*

9 A critic of the Bible might dismiss the discovery & adoption of the child Moses as a legendary & unlikely coincidence! Can you share any personal experience of “**God’s coincidences”** that convince you of **God’s control of human affairs** in a way that has blessed your life?

10 Explore the way - across the whole Bible story – that God’s purpose was taken forward through **the special birth of a child**. How many examples can you think of?

**Pray…**

- especially for **children & staff** in the early days of an uncertain school year; also for **students** starting university or returning.

– for all the difficult decisions that need to be made by **politicians** about a return to regular work & life patterns; for health services over limited resources & care of many varied needs; for **medical teams and carers** exhausted by all the extra factors of preventing infection.

– for **Christians** in countries where ‘ruthless’ persecution damages lives & removes rights.